/363 cont./

234 262 To end up, one could still cite among Chiriguano food the cheese they make in some villages. Each time they butcher they take care to keep the abomasus in order to make [177] milk separate. Chiriguano cheeses are of the same quality as those of the half-breeds, who for once have taught something [272] to our Indians. I shall add that I have never seen a Chiriguano drink milk.

312 133 The problem of water does not come up for the Chiriguano as for the other Indians of the Chaco. Numerous rivers cross their territory, and several of them are large enough not to dry up even in the middle of the dry season. These watercourses form innumerable quebradas, gorges or valleys, which give its characteristic aspect to the country inhabited by our Indians. [361] Sometimes villages are built near springs or small lakes, like the Ivu mission, which is provided with plenty of water.

312 When I crossed the Caipipendí valley, the river which occupies the bottom was nearly dry. The Indians had scooped out small wells about one meter in depth in the sand of its bed. They had surrounded them with slabs of stone to prevent any caving in and to preserve the water which accumulated in them from the heat of the sun. In this same valley, in a village situated on top of a hill, the Indians had dug a cistern four to five meters in diameter in which rain water had collected.

271 312 824 The Chiriguano have found a way to purify the muddy water they often have to drink. They crush caraguatá leaves between two stones, then steep them in the water, and all its impurities settle as a result of the action of the juice of this plant.

264 The Chiriguano do not eat at set times. They make a rather substantial breakfast very early in the morning and again take some food toward the middle of the day. In the evening [562] about six o'clock they make a kind of dinner. Since the men are served first, then the women and children, it follows that the meals drag out in length. At any moment of the day one [415] can see someone eating. The food /364/ is presented to each one in a calabash or terra-cotta bowl which each holds on his knees. They pick up the pieces with their fingers but imbibe liquids with a wooden spoon (Figs. 42 and 43). After eating, they wash their hands. I have seen some rinse out their mouths.

/26 cont./

137 824 as straight as cane. Beyond Santa Cruz there are still groves; in addition there are groves of another cane called "Bambú," which is the best known, and in Chiriguano it is called "Tacuarembo." It rises to a height of about 15 meters and is [417] used for making /27/ ladders and scaffolding in construction 249 because it is light and strong. The shoots are tender and contain a sugary substance highly regarded by the Indians; it is not sought much today, because there are abundant plantings of sugar cane, which is of great utility for the production of sugar and alcohol. This last thrives with great ease and little work. Planting is done in two ways, making furrows and burying it or planting cuttings. The former is the better method where the freshets of the rivers do not penetrate. On the slopes and tops 137 824 of hills which contain water there is another sort of slender cane, very strong and heavy, which is not hollow like the other classes and is called caña brava by the whites, and [285] "Tacuarembo" by the Chiriguano. They use it for weavers' [513] reeds and for sleeping cots.

TAMARIND. -- This beautiful and useful tree is not native, but it thrives with enough care and grows to a respectable height; the fruit that it produces is abundant, consisting of abundant pods more or less the size of chick-pea pods; the pulp is blackish and pleasant to the taste, but it is bad for [159] the teeth. It is astringent and is administered as medicine for intestinal inflammations, especially to children. It is also [272] a good tonic drink on excessively hot days; it is prepared with sugar, water, and a little of its pulp. The tree is rather sensitive to cold, and the flowers wilt easily with the south wind. For this reason the whites plant it in their patios, which are surrounded by the living quarters.

TARINGUI. -- The name of this tree is Chiriguano. The taringui is found in some regions, but not in others. It is of the cactus variety, rises up to six meters, its branchage is abundant and close, which gives a fine shade against the blazing rays of the sun. Its branches or leaves are striated and armed with spines; the fruit is tiny, but sweet and otherwise pleasant, and much liked by foxes, who only get it when it falls from the tree. The ulala or opuntia is smaller than the taringui, its leaves have the same form, the color is ash-gray and they are less a bundant, or, more properly, few. The fruit is a smooth berry